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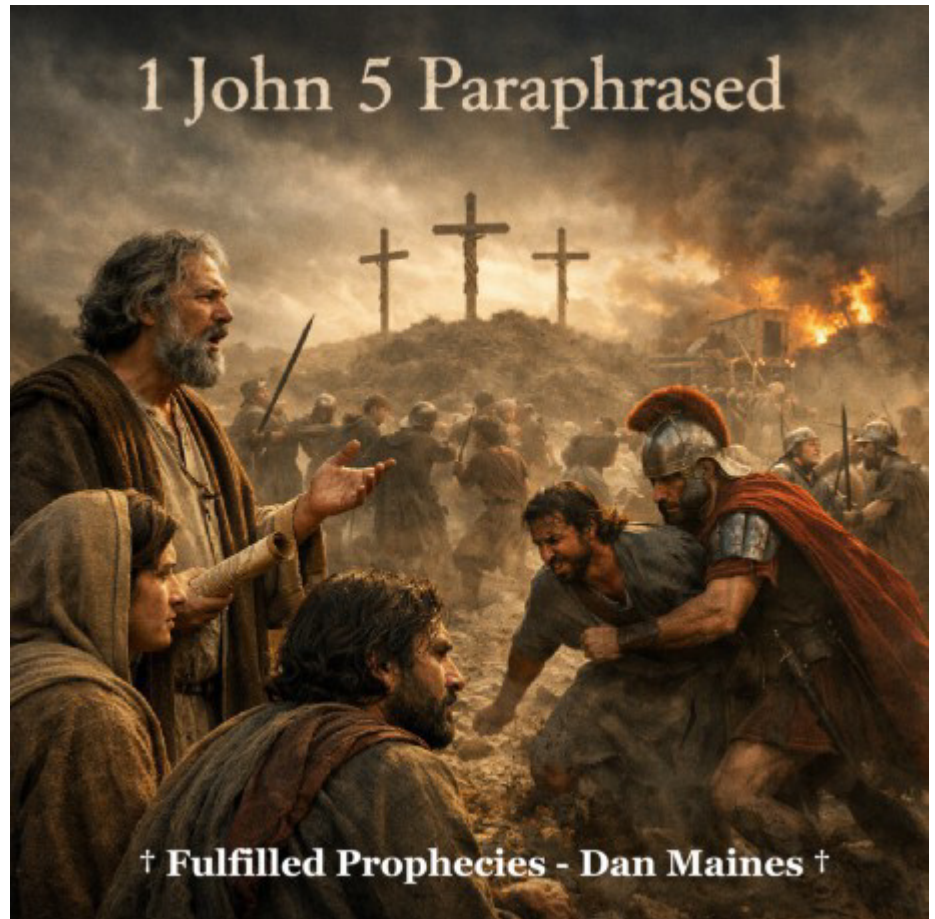
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1 John 5 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

1 John 5 Paraphrased

Introduction

† John's final chapter brings his message to completion. He explains who truly belongs to God, what real faith looks like, and why believers can have confidence in eternal life. The focus is not on speculation or mystery but on assurance. Those who believe in Jesus as the Christ are born of God and walk in love and obedience.

† This chapter also addresses testimony. John explains that God Himself has given witness about His Son. Faith in Christ is not blind belief but trust in the testimony God has already provided. Those who reject the Son are rejecting God's own witness.

† The chapter ends with strong encouragement. Believers can approach God with confidence in prayer, they can know they have eternal life, and they can live in the truth instead of the deception of the world. John's purpose is to strengthen believers so they remain firm in Christ.

1 John 5:1

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one who has been born from Him.

† True faith identifies Jesus as the Christ, the promised Messiah sent by God. Faith is the evidence that someone has been born of God (John 20:31).

† Love for God cannot be separated from love for those who belong to Him. If someone claims to love God but hates believers, that claim is empty (1 John 4:20).

† Early Christian writer Irenaeus explained that faith in Christ proves a person has entered the new life given by God, not by heritage or law but through belief in the Son.

1 John 5:2

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and live according to His commands.

† Love for believers isn't just emotional affection, it's tied directly to obedience to God. Loving God and loving His people cannot be separated (John 13:34-35).

† This corrects the false teaching that claimed spiritual knowledge without moral obedience. John repeatedly connects love, obedience, and truth.

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that love for the brethren proves genuine devotion to God because God's character is reflected in those who follow Him.

1 John 5:3

This is what love for God means, that we keep His commands, and His commands are not burdensome.

† Obedience isn't meant to feel like slavery. God's commands guide believers into the life they were created to live (Matthew 11:30).

† When someone is born of God, obedience becomes natural because their heart has been changed (Jeremiah 31:33).

† Tertullian explained that God's commands become light to those who love Him because obedience flows from devotion, not compulsion.

1 John 5:4

Everyone who has been born from God overcomes the world, and this victory that has overcome the world is our faith.

† The world represents the system opposed to God. Faith in Christ is what gives believers victory over that system (John 16:33).

† The victory John describes isn't political or military, it's spiritual triumph through trust in Christ.

† Eusebius noted that the early church overcame persecution not through power but through faith that remained firm even

under pressure.

1 John 5:5

Who is the one who overcomes the world, except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

† Victory belongs specifically to those who recognize Jesus for who He truly is, the Son of God.

† Denying Christ removes the foundation of faith, because salvation is centered entirely on Him (Acts 4:12).

† Justin Martyr wrote that confessing Jesus as the Son of God separated Christians from the surrounding pagan world.

1 John 5:6

This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water only but by water and blood, and the Spirit is the one who testifies because the Spirit is truth.

† The reference to water and blood points to Jesus' earthly ministry and sacrificial death. His mission wasn't symbolic, it was confirmed through real events (John 19:34).

† The Spirit bears witness to Christ by revealing truth to believers and confirming the message of the gospel (John 15:26).

† Early church writers argued that this verse refuted false teachers who denied the real humanity and death of Christ.

1 John 5:7

There are three that testify.

† John introduces the idea of divine testimony. The truth about Christ is confirmed through multiple witnesses.

† Jewish law required two or three witnesses to establish truth, and John uses that principle here (Deuteronomy 19:15).

† The early church used this concept to defend the reliability of the gospel message.

1 John 5:8

The Spirit and the water and the blood, and the three agree as one.

† These witnesses work together to confirm the identity and mission of Christ.

† The Spirit confirms the truth internally, while the historical events of Christ's ministry and death confirm it externally.

† Irenaeus taught that the agreement of these witnesses showed the unity of God's testimony about His Son.

1 John 5:9

If we accept the testimony of people, the testimony of God is greater, because this is the testimony of God that He has given concerning His Son.

† Human testimony is accepted in courts and daily life, but God's testimony carries far greater authority (John 8:18).

† Rejecting Christ ultimately means rejecting God's own witness.

† Early Christian apologists used this argument to defend the credibility of the gospel message against critics.

1 John 5:10

The one who believes in the Son of God has this testimony within himself. The one who doesn't believe God has made Him a liar, because he hasn't believed the testimony God has given

about His Son.

† Faith brings internal confirmation of God's truth through the Spirit.

† Rejecting Christ is serious because it calls God's testimony false (John 3:36).

† Augustine later explained that faith in Christ produces inner assurance through the work of the Spirit.

1 John 5:11

This is the testimony, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

† Eternal life isn't separate from Christ. It exists only through Him (John 14:6).

† This life begins now for believers and continues beyond physical death.

† The early church emphasized that salvation is inseparable from Christ Himself.

1 John 5:12

The one who has the Son has life, the one who doesn't have the Son of God doesn't have life.

† This statement is absolute. Life and salvation exist only through Christ.

† The message rejects the idea that people can reach God through other paths (Acts 4:12).

† Ignatius of Antioch wrote that life is found only in Christ because He is the source of resurrection and salvation.

1 John 5:13

I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

† John's purpose is assurance. Believers aren't meant to live in uncertainty about their salvation.

† Faith in Christ provides confidence because it rests on God's promise.

† Early church teachers frequently quoted this verse when encouraging believers facing persecution.

1 John 5:14

This is the confidence we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

† Prayer isn't about forcing God to act but aligning requests with His will.

† God hears His people because they belong to Him (John 15:7).

† Tertullian described prayer as the believer's conversation with God based on trust and relationship.

1 John 5:15

If we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked from Him.

† Confidence in prayer grows from trust in God's character.

† God answers prayers according to His wisdom and purpose.

† Early Christian writings encouraged believers to pray boldly while submitting to God's will.

1 John 5:16

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin that doesn't lead to death, he should ask and God will give life to those who commit sins that don't lead to death. There is sin that leads to death, I don't say that he should ask about that.

† John distinguishes between sins that can be restored and a hardened rejection of God.

† Intercession for fellow believers is encouraged because prayer can bring restoration.

† Early writers connected the sin leading to death with persistent rejection of Christ.

1 John 5:17

All wrongdoing is sin, yet there is sin that doesn't lead to death.

† John clarifies that all sin is serious, but not every sin represents total rejection of God.

† God's mercy provides forgiveness for those who repent (1 John 1:9).

† Church leaders often used this verse to encourage repentance and restoration.

1 John 5:18

We know that everyone who has been born from God doesn't continue living in sin, but the One who was born from God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

† Being born of God changes the direction of a person's life. Sin no longer controls them.

† Christ protects believers from the power of the evil one (John 17:15).

† Early church teaching emphasized that believers are guarded by Christ's authority.

1 John 5:19

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies under the power of the evil one.

† John contrasts two realities, those belonging to God and the world influenced by evil.

† This explains the conflict between believers and the world system.

† Eusebius wrote that the church existed within a hostile world but remained under God's protection.

1 John 5:20

We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so we may know the One who is true, and we are in the One who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

† Jesus reveals God and provides the understanding necessary to know Him.

† Being in Christ means sharing in the life God gives.

† Early Christian writers frequently used this verse to affirm the divinity of Christ.

1 John 5:21

Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

† John ends with a warning. Anything that replaces God in our lives becomes an idol.

† The warning fits the entire letter because false teachings and worldly influences can pull believers away from the truth.

† Early Christians living in pagan societies understood this warning clearly because idols were everywhere around them.

Historical References

† Irenaeus emphasized that faith in Christ proves new birth and victory over the world.

† Justin Martyr defended the testimony about Christ as trustworthy and historically grounded.

† Clement of Alexandria taught that love and obedience reveal true devotion to God.

† Tertullian wrote about prayer, obedience, and the believer's relationship with God.

† Eusebius recorded how early Christians remained faithful despite persecution from the world.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Faith in Christ still defines who belongs to God. Belief isn't about tradition or culture, it's about trusting the Son.

† Love for fellow believers remains a central mark of genuine faith.

† Confidence in eternal life should remove fear and uncertainty from the believer's life.

† Prayer continues to be a powerful connection between believers and God.

† The warning against idols reminds us to keep Christ at the center of our lives.

Q & A Appendix

Q: What proves someone has been born of God?

A: Believing that Jesus is the Christ and loving others who belong to God (1 John 5:1).

Q: What gives believers victory over the world?

A: Faith in Jesus as the Son of God (1 John 5:4-5).

Q: Where is eternal life found?

A: Eternal life is found only in the Son of God (1 John 5:11-12).

Q: Why can believers have confidence in prayer?

A: Because God hears requests that align with His will (1 John 5:14).

Q: Why does John warn about idols at the end of the letter?

A: Because anything that replaces God in our lives can pull us away from the truth (1 John 5:21).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† John 5

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Justin Martyr, First Apology

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Tertullian, On Prayer

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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